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Ramsay, Edward Pierson

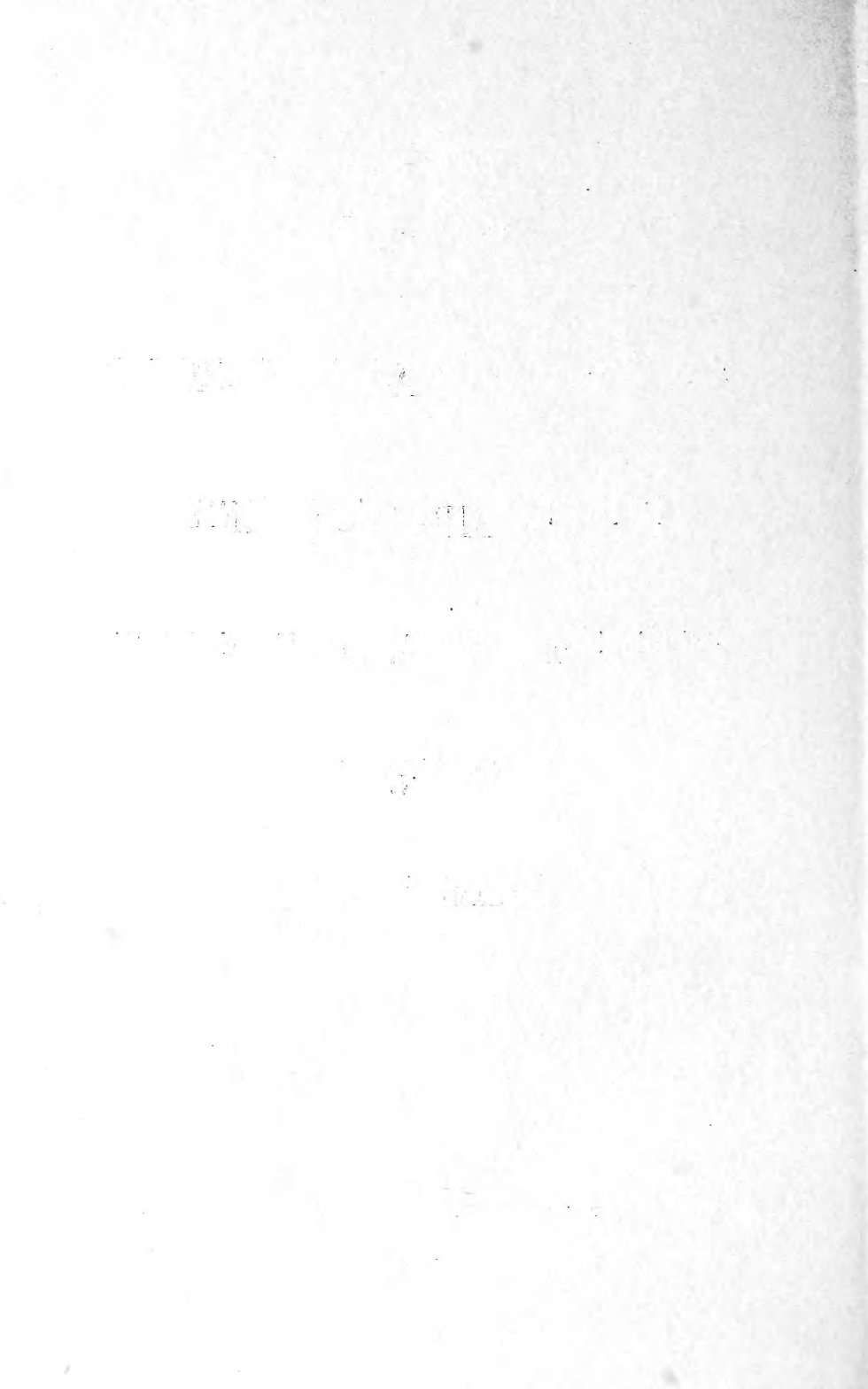
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Catalogue of the Australian birds in
Museum, Sydney, N.S. W. 1901 /

SUPPLEMENT TO THE
CATALOGUE
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN ACCIPITRES
OR
DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY
IN THE
COLLECTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM
AT
SYDNEY, N.S.W.
BY
E. P. RAMSAY, LL.D.,
CURATOR.



SYDNEY:
PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES.
—
1890.



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 Birds

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PRESENTED TO THE

LEGISLATIVE

ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

JANUARY 1880

1880

Order ACCIPITRES.

Suborder FALCONES.

Family FALCONIDÆ.

Subfamily ACCIPITRINÆ.

CIRCUS.

Circus assimilis.

(C. JARDINII, Gould.)

Jardine's Harrier.

Nestling, Reg. No. A. 9317. "Taken from the nest December 23rd, 1879, Lachlan River, N.S.W.; about five weeks old."* Down on the head and neck dull ashy-grey, ear-coverts rufous, on the remainder of the under surface white, the ends of pin-feathers on the chest deep rufous, those on the flanks similar, but with a broad lanceolate shaft stripe, under tail-coverts rufous, down on the legs white mixed with buff, a few buff pin-feathers showing through the down; on the nape, hind neck, back, scapulars and wing-coverts, rump and upper tail-coverts, the feathers are blackish at the base, broadly margined and tipped with rufous, quills and tail blackish-brown, margined with buff or rufous, under surface of the secondaries showing transverse bars as in the adult, nearly all the feathers tipped with down. Total length 15·5 inches; wing 8·3 inches; tail 5 inches; bill from forehead 3·4 inches, from gape 1·5 inch, from nostril 0·6 inch; tarsus 3·5 inches; mid toe (s.u.) 1·75 inch.

ASTUR.

Astur approximans.

The Australian Goshawk.

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 6432. "Taken from the nest December 6th, 1883, Darling River, Interior, N.S.W. About a fortnight old. Iris brown, cere light green, bill black, legs and feet yellow, claws

* The nestlings in every instance described in this appendix have been taken by Mr. K. H. Bennett, who has attached a note, giving the date and locality of each specimen, together with the colours of those parts liable to fade.

lead colour"; length 6 inches; bill from forehead 0·7 inch, from gape 0·75 inch; tarsus 1·65 inch; mid toe (s.u.) 1 inch. Body covered all over with creamy-white down, longest on the head and nape; pin-feathers just beginning to show on the primaries.

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 10158. Taken from the nest November 24th, 1885, Ivanhoe, N.S.W. "Eyes dark brown, eyelids, cere and gape greenish; bill dark horn colour; legs and feet yellow, claws light horn colour." Body covered with creamy-white down, longest on the head and breast; pin-feathers showing through the down of the primaries and secondaries. Total length 7 inches, tarsus 1·6 inch.

Astur cruentus.

Western Australian Goshawk.

Adult female. Reg. No. A. 4509, Port Essington, 1879, Col. Total length 16·8 inches; wing 10·7 inch; tail 8·4 inches; bill from forehead 1 inch, from gape 1 inch, from nostril 0·65 inch; tarsus 2·9 inch; mid-toe (s.u.) 1·6 inch.

Adult male. Reg. No. A. 4513. Total length 15 inches; wing 9·8 inches, tail 7·5 inches; bill from forehead 0·95 inch, from gape 0·9 inch, from nostril 0·55 inch; tarsus 2·8 inches; mid toe (s.u.) 1·4 inch.

Adult male. Reg. No. A. 4512. Total length 17·2 inches; wing 10·7 inches; bill 8·5 inches, bill from forehead 1·1 inch, from gape 1 inch, from nostril 0·7 inch; tarsus 3 inches; mid toe (s.u.) 1·6 inch.

Adult male. All the upper surface of the head, wings and their coverts, back, rump and tail lead-blue with a slight shade of brown; a distinct rufous collar round the hind neck and joining the chest; throat ashy-white, slightly mottled with bluish-grey, the remainder of the undersurface, under wing- and tail-coverts barred alternately with narrow lines of rufous and white, the rufous bars the broader; tail ashy-white below with from twelve to fifteen narrow black bars on the feathers, the centre two having spots on the shaft-line showing remains of the cross bars; primaries with twelve to fourteen blackish cross bars, which in very old birds are broken and altogether obsolete at the tips of the feathers; the inner webs of the under surface of all the quills have a tinge more or less of fawn colour. Description from a freshly mounted specimen, bill bluish at the base, tip black, legs and feet dull yellow, claws black. Towards the moulting season the plumage of the upper surface becomes bleached and is then of a dull brown.*

* See Catalogue of Diurnal Accipitres, Australian Museum, 1876, pp. 15 and 16.

The female is slightly larger and browner upon the upper surface, the collar is not so well defined and the chin and cheeks are mottled with brown.

Hab. Port Essington to Derby and inland to Kimberly.

This species undergoes the same stages of plumage as the eastern and southern representative, *A. approximans*.

Male, ad. sk. Total length 13·5 inches ; wing 9·3 inches, tail 7 inches ; bill from forehead 1 inch, from nostril 0·6 inch, from gape 0·9 inch ; tarsus 2·8 inch ; mid toe (s.u.) 1·3 inch.

Female, ad. sk. Total length 15 inches ; wing 10·5 inches ; tail 8 inches ; bill from forehead 1·05 inch, from nostril 0·6 inch, from gape 1 inch ; tarsus 2·9 inches ; mid toe (s.u.) 1·6 inch.

AQUILA.

Aquila audax.

The Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Nestling, Reg. No. A. 18558. "Taken from the nest, about two or three days old. Eyes dark brown, feet whitish. Locality Moolah, Interior, N.S.W., August 1883." Total length 6 inches ; bill from forehead 0·9 inch, from gape 0·95 inch ; tarsus 0·8 inch. Entirely covered with snow-white down, long on the thighs and legs, longest upon the head and hind neck where the down is erect and hairy.

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 6431. "Taken from the nest near Moss-giel, N.S.W., September 12, 1884." About a fortnight old, uniformly covered with white down, hairy in texture and longest on the head and hind neck, very short on the inner side of the thighs and under the wings. "Iris brown, bare place in front of the eyes lead colour ; cere greenish-white ; bill horn colour, black at the tip ; gape yellow ; feet white, claws light horn colour, dark at the base." Total length 11 inches ; wing 3 inches ; pin-feathers of the primaries just beginning to show through the down ; tarsus 1·3 inch ; bill from forehead 1·4 inch, from gape 1·5 inch.

Remarks. "As a rule this bird nests in the early part of July, and the young leave the nest about the end of November ; young ones have been taken as early as the 10th of July, which were apparently about a week old, such instances of early breeding are however rare." (K.H.B.)

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 10145. "Taken from the nest September 30th, 1884 ; about two months old ; eyes clear light brown, cere greenish-white ; bill, basal half horn colour, remainder black ; feet white." Total length 21 inches ; wing 10 inches ; tail 4·3 inch ; tarsus 3·5 inch ; mid toe (s.u.) 2·5 ; bill from forehead 2·2 inch, from gape 2·3 inch. This specimen is covered with short

white down, except on the wings and tail, where black pin-feathers mottled with rusty-brown appear; a small patch of narrow lanceolate feathers of dark rusty-brown on the base of the occiput; the tips of a few black feathers also appear through the down; the sides of the chest, breast, and the outer sides of the thighs and legs, and the upper and under tail-coverts rusty.

Nestlings, Reg. Nos. B. 6422, and B. 6423. Taken from the same nest, between three and four months old, have rufous feathers tipped with down developing on the head, hind neck, chest, wing-coverts, upper and under tail-coverts, primaries—as far as developed—black; secondaries and coverts dark brown barred with black; tail blackish at the base barred with black and ashy-brown towards the tip; feathers of the lower part of the breast blackish-brown tipped with fawn colour; thighs and legs almost black tipped with light brown. A second specimen, a female is of the same dimensions and similarly marked. Total length 25·5 inches; wing 14 inches; tail 7·7 inches; tarsus 3·9 inches; “iris clear light brown; bill horn colour at base, remainder black; cere bright yellow; feet yellowish, claws black, sex male. Mossgiel, October 13th, 1884.”

Aquila morphnoides.

The Little Eagle.

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 6429. “Taken from the nest, December 24th, 1883, just hatched.” Total length 3·5 inches; bill from forehead 0·6 inch, from the gape 0·65 inch; covered with creamy-white down, erect and hairy upon the upper surface; “eyes pale brown, cere yellowish; bill light horn colour; feet flesh colour.”

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 10147. “Taken from the nest, November 5th, 1884, Mossgiel, New South Wales.” Total length 4·5 inches; bill from forehead 0·85 inch, from gape 0·9 inch; slightly larger than the preceding; colouring the same. “Eyes dark brown, cere yellowish; bill dark horn colour; feet yellowish-white, claws light horn colour.”

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 6427. “Taken from the nest December 7th, 1883, Mossgiel, Interior, N.S.W.” Total length 9·7 inches; wing 4·5 inches; bill 1·2 inch, from gape 1·3 inch; covered with short white down below the head and the neck; interscapular region, scapulars, and the primaries blackish-brown; upper wing-coverts brown, tinged here and there with rufous-brown, the tips of a few rufous pin-feathers showing upon the sides of the chest; “Iris light brown, bill black, cere greenish; feet yellowish-white, claws black, bare space round the eyes dark lead colour.”

Nestling, B. 10146. "Taken from the nest December 4th, Mossiel, New South Wales; iris clear light brown, cere yellowish bill bluish horn colour at base, remainder black, bare space around the eyes lead colour, feet yellowish-white." Total length 12·5 inches; wing 6·2 inches; bill from forehead 1·2 inch, from gape 1·4 inch, from nostril 0·7 inch; similar to the preceding, the down very much short and the hairy portions worn off, a few rusty feathers on the occiput, nape and interscapular region, those on the shoulders, scapulars, and back dull brown, dark in the centre; primaries black, tipped with light brown, a few brown feathers upon the rump and upper tail-coverts, pushing through the down, dark brown; tail dark brown margined with ashy-white and tipped with white down; rufous tinge on some of the pin-feathers of the under tail-coverts; a few rufous feathers appearing on the sides of the breast and centre of the abdomen. "Iris clear light brown, cere yellowish; bill bluish horn colour tip black; bare space in front and round the eyes lead colour; feet yellowish-white."

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 6428. Taken from nest December 24th, 1883, Interior, N.S. Wales, about two months old, or more. "Iris light brown; bill horn colour at base, tip black; cere yellowish; feet greenish-white, claws black; bare space in front and around the eyes blackish." A much more advanced bird than the last. Total length 14 inches; wing 8·7 inches; tail 4 inches; bill from forehead 1·35 inch, from gape 1·5, from nostril 0·75 inch; tarsus 2·2 inch; mid toe (s.u.) 1·75 inch. Rufous feathers on the head and nape covering the down, interscapular region brown, slightly tinged with rufous; wing-coverts dark brown, shaded with ashy-brown and margined with ashy at the tips; primaries black, slightly tipped with ashy-white; secondaries dark brown, ashy at the tips showing blackish bars, on the under surface the bars on the secondaries are well defined; chest, and all the under surface, sides, and under tail-coverts rufous, a few feathers only above the flanks fully developed; throat and sides of the neck with very short down.

HALIASTUR.

Haliastur sphenurus.

The Whistling Eagle.

Nestling. Reg. No. B. 6434. "Taken from the nest December 18th, 1883, Interior of New South Wales. Iris light reddish-brown bill and cere dark horn colour; feet and legs bluish-white, claws dark horn colour." Total length 8 inches; bill from forehead 1 inch, from gape 1·1 inch; tarsus 1 inch; covered with short white down, erect, longer and of a brownish tinge on the hind neck and head.

GYPOICTINIA.**Gypoictinia melanosternon.***Black-breasted Buzzard.*

Nestling. Covered with white fluffy down. Cere bluish, bill dark horn colour, feet ashy-white, bare space on the face bluish-lead colour. Total length about eleven inches. Dark rufous-brown feathers first appear on the nape, interscapular region, upper wing-coverts and tail; the quills blackish with reddish-brown margins.

Adult female. Total length 22·5 inches; wing 19 inches; tail 8·5 inches; tarsus 2·55 inches; bill from forehead 2·1 inches, from gape 2·1 inches, from nostril 1·35 inch, culmen 2·2 inch. "Irides hazel; bill pale horn colour; cere ashy-brown; feet and legs greyish; claws black. Sex female, shot from nest."

Adult female. Total length 23·5 inches; wing 18·6 inches; tail 8·7 inches; tarsus 2·5 inches; bill from forehead 1·85 inch, from nostril 1·18 inch, from gape 2·27 inches; culmen 2·2 inches.

Remarks. In addition to Mr. Sharpe's very good description of this bird, in specimens usually examined the feathers of the nape, hinder part and sides of the neck are rich rufous with a black shaft stripe; mantle, interscapular region, and the outer webs of the wing-coverts jet black, inner webs of the wing-coverts rufous, under primary coverts dark slate colour, thighs and under tail-coverts rich rufous with a blackish shaft stripe, the notch in the first four primaries are largely developed. When the wings are extended the large white patch at the base of the quills is very conspicuous and the bird can thus easily be recognised at a great height.

HIERACIDEA.**Hieracidea orientalis.***The Brown Hawk, Cream-bellied Falcon &c.*

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 6433. "Taken from the nest October 9th, 1884, about three weeks old, Mossiel, N.S. Wales. Iris dark brown; bill and cere lead colour, dark at the tip; legs and feet bluish-white, claws dark brown." Total length 9 inches; wing 4 inches; bill from forehead 1 inch, from gape 1 inch; tarsus 1·8 inch; mid toe (s.u.) 1·15 inch. Covered with dull whitey-brown down above and below, under surface dull white, down on the flanks long and of an ashy tinge; pin-feathers of the wing as far as exposed, and of the tail blackish with rufous margins tipped with down.

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 10155. "Taken from the nest, Mossiel, October 29th. About a month old. Iris rich dark brown; cere greyish, eyelids bluish-white; bill horn colour; legs fleshy-

white; feet whitish, tinged with blue, claws dark horn colour." Total length 11·35 inches; wings 6·1 inches; tail 2·7 inches; bill from forehead 1 inch, from gape 1·2 inch; tarsus 2·4 inches; mid toe (s.u.) 1·5. Dark brown pin-feathers tinged with rufous-fawn colour upon the sides of the breast; a broken row on the chest, hind neck, interscapular region and back dark brown tipped with light rufous; quills and wing-coverts where visible, black, strongly margined with rufous-fawn, some of the secondaries showing rufous fawn coloured spots or broken bars, pin-feathers of the upper tail-coverts and tail blackish, broadly margined with deep fawn; all but the centre pair with a spot or band of rufous-fawn.

Nestling, Reg. No. A. 9316. "Taken from the nest November 13th, 1880, Lachlan River, N.S. Wales. Female. Irides dark brown; bill and cere whitish; legs and feet pale lead-blue, claws black; orbits pale bluish." Similar in plumage but slightly more advanced than the preceding, feathers on the sides of the chest blackish; thighs and abdomen brown margined with fawn colour; under tail-coverts fawn colour. Wing 6·3 inches; tarsus 2·4 inches; mid toe (s.u.) 1·5 inch.

Nestling, Reg. No. B. 10156. "Taken from the nest October 29th, 1883, Mossgiel, N.S.W. Female? Iris rich dark brown, cere lead colour; bill light horn colour; eyelids white; legs white; feet white tinged with bluish-lead colour, claws dark horn colour; between three and four weeks old." Similar in plumage to the preceding. Total length 10 inches; wing 5·5 inches; tail 2·7 inches; bill 1·1 inch, from gape 1·2 inch, from nostril 0·7 inch; tarsus 2·1 inch; mid toe (s.u.) 1·6 inch.

TINNUNCULUS.

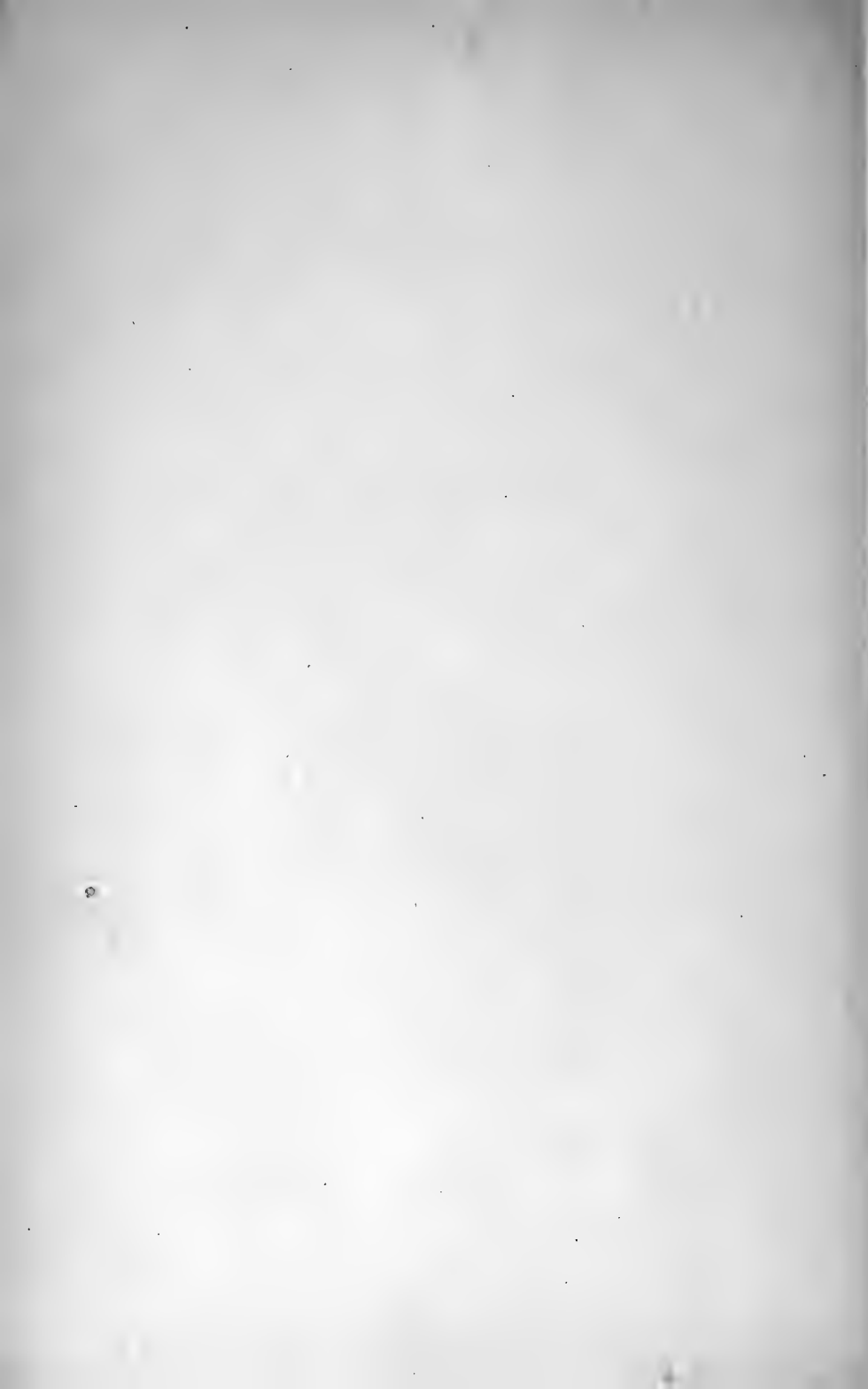
Tinnunculus cenchroides.

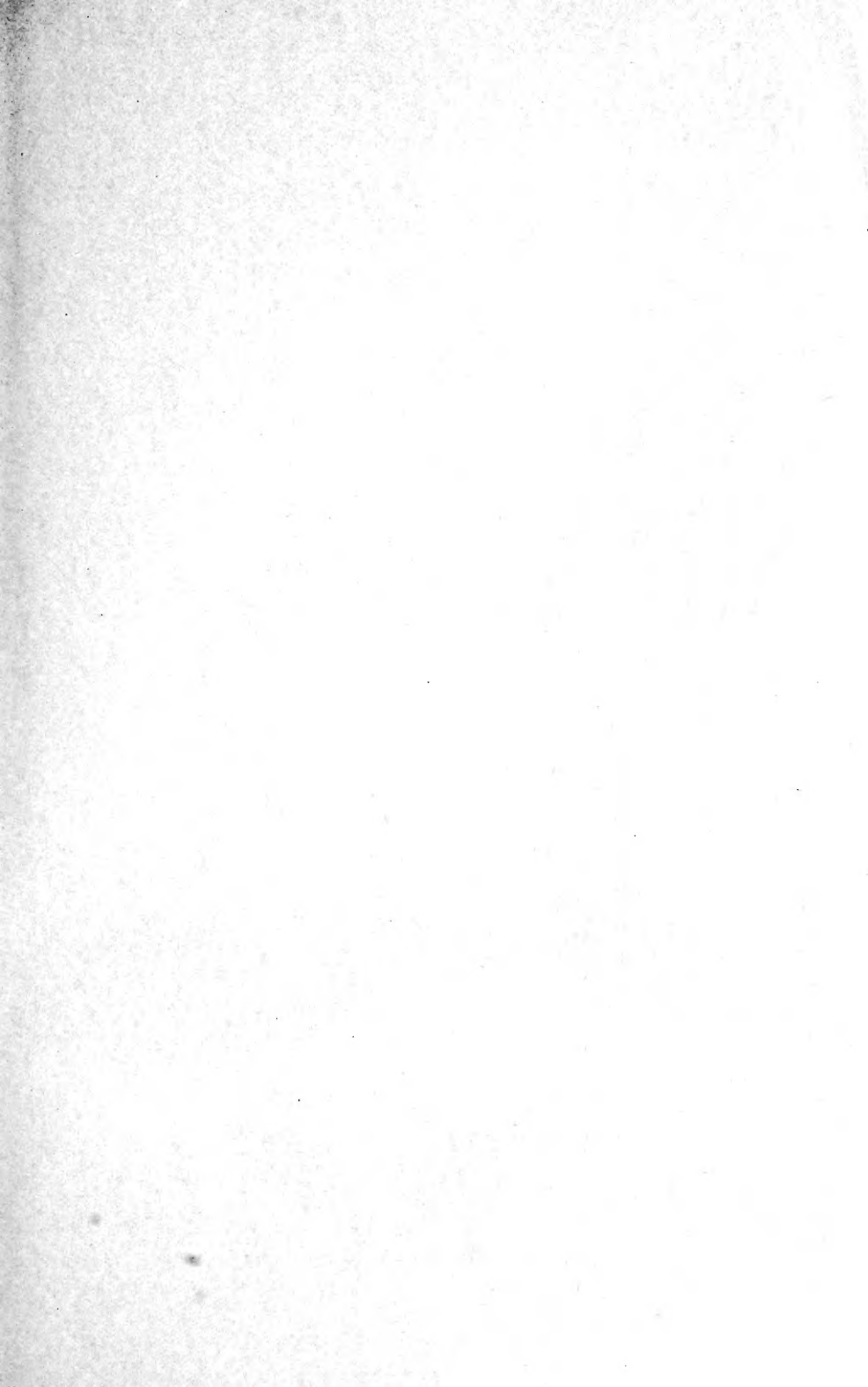
Nankeen Kestrel.

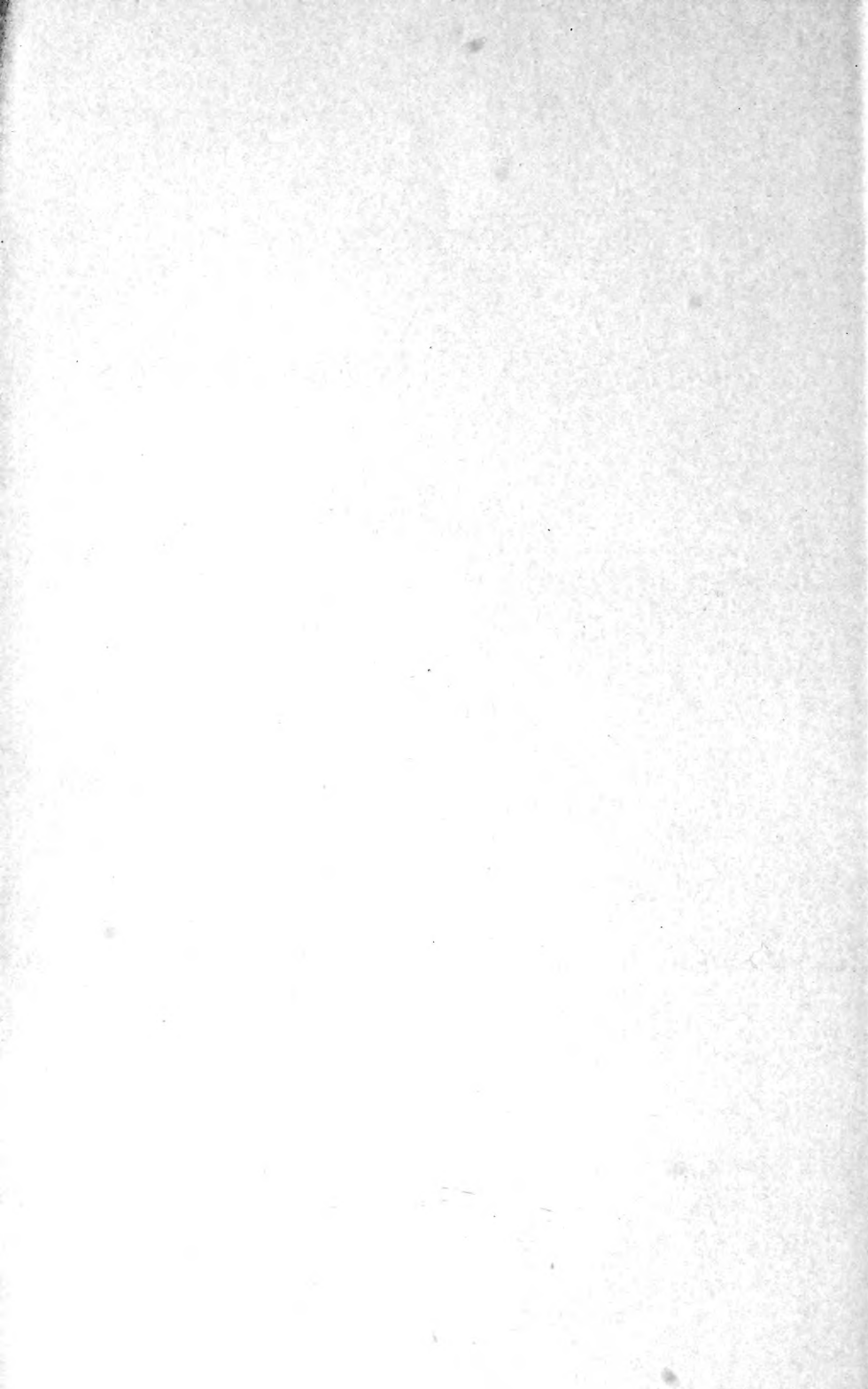
Nestling, Reg. No. B. 10157. "Apparently about a week old, taken from nest October 24th, 1883; eyes blackish, bill and cere white, legs and feet yellowish." Total length 3·7 inches; tarsus 0·8 inch; bill from forehead 0·65 inch. Covered entirely with whitish down, longest on the head.













Wray, Edward Pierson

A logue of the Australian birds in the Australia
seum, Sydney, N.S. W. 1891 /

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